

GODMANCHESTER

Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester

FOR THE YEAR 1906.

BY

HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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**TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

GENTLEMEN,

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,659 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river, with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

It is a purely agricultural district with a tendency to fall in the matter of population, there being a difference of 78 between the Census 1891 and 1901.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled. The gravelling of the yards has been carried out more thoroughly this year, but there is still room for improvement. At the present time there are no Byelaws compelling people to submit plans to your Surveyor before building new dwelling-houses.

Sewers and Sewerage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage. The sewers discharge into two brooks which coalesce at a distance of from 400 to 500 yards, and form one stream which empties itself into the Hemingford head of the river Ouse, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

Very little fœcal matter passes through the sewers as the pail system is almost universally adopted.

The sewers are well flushed with water from the river from the Godmanchester head, and by means of water pumped into a tank at the upper end of the system by a ram at the old water mill, which supplies the motive power. The old brick sewers are being re-placed by sanitary pipes from time to time.

The pail system is adopted for the removal of excrement, which is carted out of the Borough in your own carts and by your own men, and disposed of in a field far removed from any possible risk of well pollution. House refuse is also removed in the same way and placed in the same field, except when occupiers choose to cart it to their own fields or allotments outside the Borough proper. The removal of house refuse is much facilitated by the use of sanitary dust-bins which are being generally adopted. The refuse is removed once a week or oftener if required.

Water Supply.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley, this is liable to pollution. Notices have been posted on all the pumps, advising the inhabitants to boil their water before using it for drinking purposes. The subject of the water supply has engaged the attention of your Council, and a Committee has been appointed to consider this most important subject.

One sample of water was sent for analysis during the year, and was pronounced unfit for drinking purposes.

Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, and Factories (of which only one now exists, a Flour Mill) are regularly visited by the Inspector, who also periodically inspects the schools.

Abatement of Nuisances.

Your Surveyor gives notice as to the abatement of nuisances, and if not attended to reports to your Authority.

Isolation Hospital.

No further action has been taken as to the provision of a Hospital for the treatment of Infectious Diseases. Two Third Class Carriages have been secured for the reception of cases of Small Pox, and placed in a very suitable situation.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by your Inspector principally by means of the Formic Aldehyde Lamp.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic Inspection of the whole District, accompanied by your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. I have made other Inspections when diseases or nuisances existed to which my attention had been called. Your Inspector has ordered all insanitary conditions existing to be remedied, and has seen that his instructions are carried out.

Births and Deaths.

During the year the births of 52 children have been registered, 22 males and 30 females; an average of 25.7 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 37 persons residing in the Borough, and of 10 persons belonging in the district, 6 in the Union Workhouse, 3 in the Three Counties Asylum, and one in the County Hospital, make a total of 47, a rate of 23·3 per 1000 persons living; 10 deaths occurred in children under one year of age, and 15 in persons above 65 years of age; of these 9 were 70 years of age and upwards, hence our high death-rate. The young people go away, and the old are left.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

Seven cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year—three of Erysipelas, 3 of Scarlet Fever, and one of Enteric Fever.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred.

Erysipelas.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified, insanitary conditions were present, and were remedied in one case. No cause could be ascertained in the other two cases.

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. One case was imported from London. The two remaining cases could not be traced, one occurred in an isolated cottage.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified. I fear Vaccination Exemption Orders are on the increase. I hope soon Re-vaccination will be made compulsory, as in the absence of Small Pox the necessity for Re-vaccination is lost sight of.

Enteric Fever.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified. Attributed to polluted water, and insanitary surroundings which were dealt with by your inspector.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Six deaths from Diseases of Respiratory Organs were registered, making an average death-rate of 2·9 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

Four deaths from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases occurred, making an average death-rate of 1·9 per 1000 persons living. Phthisis should be added to the list of compulsory notifiable diseases, so that directions might be given as to the disposal of the sputum, and that houses might be disinfected after the removal or death of the patients. Disinfection is carried out where practicable.

Cancer.

Two deaths from Cancer were registered during the year, making an average death-rate of ·9 per 1000 persons living.

Food and Drugs Adulteration.

One sample of Ice Cream, one of Milk, one of Lard, two of Gin, one of Scotch Whisky were analyzed during the year, and all were found to be genuine.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary exists.

I append Table 1, Vital Statistics of the whole District and previous years.

Table 3, of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table 4, Causes of, and ages at death during the year.

Table 5, Infantile Mortality during the year.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report.

And the Factory and Workshops Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Godmanchester Urban District Council

HUNTINGDON,

February 5th, 1907

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Fo the Year 1906.

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	7
Drains unstopped and repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Earth Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Paving round Gully Traps repaired	...	...	...	...	29
New Drains	...	...	...	...	5
Yards paved with Cement	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto with Bricks	...	...	...	...	6
Ditto with gravel	...	...	...	...	44
Pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	3
Cowsheds repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	5
Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	3

CHAS. MAYFIELD,

INSPECTOR.

TABLE 1.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate *	Under 1 year of Age.	At all Ages.	Rate.*	Number.				Rate.*	
												Number.	Rate per 1000 Births, Registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1896	2095	69	32.9	11	159.4	38	18.1	...	...	2	40	19.09
1897	2095	65	31.06	10	153.8	31	16.2	...	...	3	37	17.6
1898	2095	59	28.1	8	135.5	30	14.3	...	...	5	35	16.7
1899	2095	62	29.5	8	129.0	38	18.1	...	...	7	45	21.4
1900	2095	62	29.5	17	274.1	39	18.6	...	...	8	47	22.4
1901	2017	56	27.76	5	89.28	26	12.89	...	...	3	29	14.37
1902	2017	53	26.2	7	132.07	34	16.8	...	...	3	37	18.3
1903	2017	57	28.2	6	105.26	29	14.37	...	...	3	32	15.9
1904	2017	51	26.7	3	55.55	29	14.37	...	...	2	31	15.3
1905	2017	61	30.2	11	163.9	34	16.89	...	...	1	34	16.8
Averages for years 1896-1905.	2056	59.8	29.01	8.6	139.78	33.1	16.05	...	...	3.7	36.7	17.78
1906	2017	52	25.7	10	192.3	37	18.3	...	...	10	47	23.3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in acres

(exclusive of area covered by water).

4659

Total population at all ages 2,017
Number of inhabited houses 500
Average number of persons per house 3.8

At Census of 1901.

Public Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District:— Addenbrooke Hospital, Cambridge, Huntingdon Union Workhouse, Huntingdon County Hospital, Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey.

TABLE III.—Godmanchester Urban District.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At 11 Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria							
Membranous croup ...							
Erysipelas	3				1	2	
Scarlet fever	3			2	1		
Typhus fever							
Enteric fever	1						1
Relapsing fever							
Continued fever							
Puerperal fever							
Plague.....							
TOTALS	7			2	2	2	1

NO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

TABLE IV.—Godmanchester Urban District.*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the several ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Diarrhoea.....	3	3					
Phthisis	2		1		1		
Other tubercular diseases	2					2	
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	2						2
Bronchitis	5	2	1			1	1
Pneumonia	1		1				
Venereal Diseases.....	1				1		
Heart Diseases.....	7					7	
Alcoholism	1					1	
Suicides	1					1	
All other causes	22	5				5	12
All Causes.....	47	10	3	0	2	17	15

TABLE V.—BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.
Infantile Mortality during the year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	Certified	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				9
	Uncertified	...	..				1											1
	Diarrhoea ...	...	...				1	1	1									3
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	1		1	2	1			1	1							5
	Bronchitis ...	...	...									1		1				2
	Other Causes	...	...													
			1		1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		1				10

Births in the year.

{
 Legitimate
 Illegitimate
 }

...
 48.
 ...
 4.

Deaths Legitimate 9.
 Illegitimate 1.

Population Estimated to middle of 1906.
 2017.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 47.

**Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1906
for the Urban District of Godmanchester.**

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection
with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces	4	Nil.	Nil.
Homeworkers' Premises ..	Nil.		
Total	12	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

